

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 01736 181827Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05
IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 /070 W
-----181847Z 116106 /53

O R 181727Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5283
INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
"3./AMCONSUL BELIZE (POUCH)
USCINCSO

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 1736

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MASS GT US SHUM
SUBJECT: GUATEMALA CONFIRMS US ANNOUNCEMENT THAT IT HAS REJECTED
MILITARY AID

REF: GUATEMALA 1584

1. ON RECEIPT AFTERNOON MARCH 17 OF WIRE SERVICE REPORTS
OF REVELATION IN US CONGRESSIONAL HEARING THAT GUATEMALA
HAD REJECTED FURTHER US MILITARY ASSISTANCE, REPORTERS
DESCENDED ON ACTING FONMIN ALFREDO OBIOLS, WHO CONFIRMED
REPORT AND GAVE THEM TEXT OF GUATEMALAN NOTE OF MARCH 11
(REFTEL). OBIOLS REFUSED COMMENT ON GOG ACTION, BUT PRO-
GOVERNMENT NACION MARCH 18 ATTRIBUTES FOLLOWING COMMENT TO
DEPUTY PRESIDENTIAL PRSS SECRETARY ROLANDO ARCHILA:
EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN US AND GOG "DOES NOTNMEAN THAT
THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE COOLED. WHAT
HAS HAPPENED IS SIMPLY THAT USG HAS STATED ITS POSITION
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WITH RESPECT TO THIS MATTER AND GOG HAS DONE THE SAME."
HE SAID EXCHANGE OF VIEWS THROUGH NOTES WAS PERFECTLY
NORMAL, ALTHOUGH HE ADMITTED THAT THIS WAS "A SPECIAL
SITUATION." ARCHILA EXPLAINED THAT GOG ACTION DID NOT
HAVE RETROACTIVE EFFECT NOR DID IT HAVE ANY IMPLICATIONS
FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE EXTENDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. HE INDICATED THAT US MILITARY

ASSISTANCE HAD NOT BEEN OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO GUATEMALA IN ANY EVENT DUE TO US "POLICY OF EQUILIBRIUM." DESPITE US POLICY, HE NOTED, EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS, BY ARMS PURCHASES FROM OTHER SUPPLIERS, HAD BECOME BEST-ARMED IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

2. GOG INTEREST IN NOT OVERPLAYING STORY MAY ALSO BE INDICATED BY FACT THAT NACION, WHICH IS OWNED BY PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SECRETARY, WAS ALONE AMONG THE FOUR MORNING PAPERS MARHC 18 IN NOT MAKING GOG ANNOUNCEMENT ITS LEAD STORY AND IN FACT DOES NOT MENTION IT ON FRONT PAGE. GRAFICO BANNER WAS TYPICAL: GUATEMALA REJECTS US MILITARY AID; GOVERNMENT DECLINES ANY COLLABORATION OR SALE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT THAT IS CONDITIONED." ALL PAPERS QUOTE EXTENSIVELY FROM GOG NOTE, BUT NOT FROM DEPARTMENT'S REPORT ON GUATEMALA, WHICH FONOFF DID NOT GIVE THEM AND PRESS APPARENTLY DID NOT ASK FOR. (NO REPORTER HAS CONTACTED EMBASSY AND THEREFORE OUR CONTINGENCY PRESS STATEMENT (REFTEL) UNUSED.)

3. GRAFICO IS ONLY PAPER SO FAR TO CARRY WIRE SERVICE STORY FROM WASHINGTON, AN AFP REPORT WHICH CITES UNDER SECRETARY BENSON'S TESTIMONY AND SAYS THAT REPORT CALLS GUATEMALA "PARTIALLY FREE." AFP DOES NOT MAKE CLEAR THAT THIS CHARACTERIZATION CAME FROM FREEDOM HOUSE, NOT FROM DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

4. ONLY EDITORIAL COMMENT WAS IN LEADING OPPOSITION
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PAPER GRAFICO, UNDER CAPTION "REJECTION OF INTERVENTION." GRAFICO SAYS LABEL OF "PARTIALLY FREE" APPLIED TO GUATEMALA "WOULD BE JUSTIFIED BY THE LONG LIST OF PERSONS MURDERED OR DISAPPEARED, AS WELL AS BY THE VIOLENCE THAT HAS PREVAILED DURING RECENT YEARS IN OUR COUNTRY. WE WOULD HAVE TO ASK, NEVERTHELESS, ON WHAT BASIS US - OR BETTER SAID THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION - HAS ARROGATED TO ITSELF THE ROLE OF JUDGE, PUTTING THE REST OF THE WORLD'S NATIONS IN THE DOCKET. IT WOULD ONLY BE FAIR THAT US MAKE AN EXAMINATION OF ITS OWN CONSCIENCE CONCERNING THE TREATMENT THAT THE BLACK AND HISPANIC POPULATION (OF US) HAVE SUFFERED, AND THEN REACH THE CONCLUSION THAT THERE TOO THERE HAVE BEEN VIOLATIONS. NOW, IF BY MEANS OF THIS PRESSURE THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION SEEKS TO HAVE HUMAN RIGHTS RESPECTED IN ITS COUNTRY AND IN THE OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE HEMISPHERE, ITS ATTITUDE WOULD MAKE SENSE, ALTHOUGH IT DOES NOT JUSTIFY IN ANY WAY INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL

AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES...PERHAPS THIS STEP WILL
COST US MILITARY ASSISTANCE - WHICH WOULD HAVE AMOUNTED
TO \$2.1 MILLION IN FISCAL YEAR 1978 - BUT IT WILL SAVE
OUR DIGNITY AS A FREE AND SOVEREIGN NATION."

5. GOVERNOR GEORGE WALLACE WAS ASKED HIS VIEWS ON HIS
ARRIAL AT GUATEMALA CITY AIRPORT AFTERNOON MARCH 17,
BUT HE TOLD REPORTERS HE WAS NOT FULLY INFORMED ON THIS
SUBJECT AND COULD NOT SPEAK FOR PRESIDENT CARTER.
BOSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770093-0783
Format: TEL
From: GUATEMALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770346/aaaabnzb.tel
Line Count: 126
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: ba0deeb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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